

The Louisville Historian

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A LOUISVILLE HISTORY IN TRADE TOKENS

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Historical Commission Member

Trade tokens have been used as a form of exchange for hundreds of years. They can be thought of as a private form of currency. In Great Britain, tokens were common from the time of Elizabeth I until the reign of George III when the steam coin press came into use and coinage could be produced in greater quantities.

Early British tokens were produced by large employers to pay small change wages. They often carried the face value of coins of the realm but were inscribed with pictures and/or the name of the issuing business or individual. Most were made of durable metal.

Lead tokens, very common during the 17th and 18th century, could be produced by smaller landowners and often featured the initials of the landowner and some type of a landowner symbol or insignia. Although it isn't known for sure, popular thinking is that these tokens were given to the farm workers as a tally of work performed and may then have been redeemed for coin of the realm or goods and services.



Early Lead Tokens from Great Britain (1600s-1700s)
The token on the left was probably used by a group of businesses and is generic in nature. The token on the right with a fleur-de-lis on the obverse and the initials T K on the reverse was probably used by a single land owner.

Trade tokens became widely used in Colorado during the late 1870's and enjoyed popularity into the 1930's. They were used by saloon keepers, grocers, cigar stores, pool halls, confectioners, and many other businesses. Token manufacturers would often come into a town and take a number of different business orders. Small towns may have several businesses with tokens with very similar characteristics as a result.

Trade tokens served several purposes for the business owner who distributed them. They were a form of currency when coinage was scarce. During the late 1800's and early 1900's drinks often sold for 15¢ or 2 for 25¢. Many times, patrons would stop in on the way home from work for a quick one. By pricing two for a quarter, the saloon owner could insure a return visit or would profit when the token was not redeemed at all. Further, these were a way to advertise the business.



Reverse side of a typical 12 1/2 ¢ Colorado Trade Token

Louisville tokens, on the other hand, seem to indicate that the going price for drinks at the turn of the century was probably 5¢. This is born out by a prominence of 5¢ token issues in Louisville from the 1880's through the 1930's. Many of the names of the businesses on the tokens will bring back memories of family or friends that have raised generations in this quiet (although not always) little coal mining town.

Some of the businesses that issued tokens included:

- Celeste's Place, a cigar and soda stand that existed in Louisville in 1925.

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- Joe Humphrey, A Louisville saloon owner from 1907 to 1908.
- Joe Lachner, another long time Louisville saloon that operated from 1883-1913 according to the Colorado Business Directory.
- The John L. Porta Pool Room- 1920
- L. Mossoni-operated a billiard parlor and cigar stand in 1923.
- Mossoni and Porta also operated a joint billiard parlor and cigar stand in 1920.
- The North Coal and Coke Company of Louisville in operation from 1905-1912 issued a five cent token good at it's company store.

Other businesses that issued tokens that may be familiar to younger residents may include the Twin Light Tavern and, of course, the Blue Parrot Cafe which released a 5¢ trade token in the early 1950's.

*Obverse photo of a Louisville
5¢ trade token.*



Tokens tell a story of the history of the towns, cities and the states that produced them. They speak of heroes and villains from our past like Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, and Bat Masterson. Louisville, at this time has 27 different catalogued tokens. The chances are that you may have some in an old box that grandma and grandpa kept in the desk drawer. They may not even be of a known variety. They are a special part of history and a great memory piece.

Tokens can be a valuable collectable depending on rarity and collectability. Pricing of tokens is always a risky business. The old adage of "It is worth whatever someone is willing to pay" could never be truer. There are a number of things that drive token pricing. These are some considerations.

- The type of business issuing the token. Saloons are very popular, especially if the word saloon is on the token. This is followed by billiard or pool

halls and cigar tokens. Grocery, dairy, and general merchandise tokens do not seem to, on average, carry as high a value. Many collectors specialize in the fraternal organization tokens such as the Elks and Eagles.

- The type of metal and shape of the token has some small effect on pricing. The brass tokens seem to generally be more in demand than the aluminum tokens. Round tokens are the most common, with some collectors specializing in scalloped, square, or rectangular tokens.

•Tokens that name the city and state usually sell at higher prices than "mavericks" which are tokens without the city and/or state listed. Attributing these maverick tokens can be difficult and time consuming but, once done, may have a dramatic effect on the selling price of the token. A good example in Colorado would be a Board of Trade token. Colorado hosted several Board of Trade saloons all over the state. One token with a listing of "Board of Trade / 25 / J H Samson" can be attributed to the Jim Samson, the original owner of the Board of Trade Saloon in 1879 in Leadville, Colorado. The Board of Trade has a colorful history including being a popular hangout for Doc Holliday when he was in Leadville.

- This brings up the next pricing variable; location. Towns and cities with a rich history generally bring better prices. Old Colorado mining towns such as Ouray, Silverton, Leadville, Central City, and Cripple Creek are very popular with collectors.

•Finally, the rarity of the token comes into play. Unlike coins that were often produced in the millions, tokens were usually printed in the hundreds. Many were destroyed after redemption, further decreasing the numbers. Many tokens have only one known or reported example in the literature. Such rarity has a dramatic effect on pricing especially if more than one purchaser has a deep pocketbook. Recently a token from Vulcan, Colorado sold at auction for over \$1200.

Look around the old cigar boxes. You, too, may own a piece of Louisville history. Get it out and show it off. Research it at the library or museum and learn about the maker. It's a whole new hobby.

HIGHLIGHTS IN HISTORY: *LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL COMMISSION CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY*

Sally Burlingame
Historical Commission Member

In 1979, Mayor John Waschak appointed August Hioco to head the new Louisville Historical Commission. The Commission initially had nine members.

The City purchased the site at 1001 Main Street for a museum. It included the Jacoe Store and the Miner's House. The total purchase price was \$40,000. The Miner's House was built circa 1904 and was home to the Tomeo Family. The house had no electricity or running water. It did have an outhouse. The Miner's House Museum opened to the public September 1, 1986.

South of the Miner's House is the old Jacoe Grocery Store. At the time the City purchased the building, it was abandoned. The building needed significant restoration before it could be used as a museum. To raise funds for the project, the Commission held a large fundraiser on July 4, 1989. Taken from the July 19, 1989 *Louisville Times*, the items below show a list of contributors to the project and Betty Buffo working on the restoration of the building. The museum opened to the public on March 31, 1990.

The Commission is currently working to renovate the newest addition to the museum site, the Jordinelli House. The Commission plans to use the building to display artifacts and use it as an events center. Watch for the opening and dedication date.

The Louisville Historical Commission And Society

The Louisville Historical Commission and Society would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your generous donations. Whether you donated one or more items to be auctioned or gave a cash donation, you helped make this July 4th project a huge success.

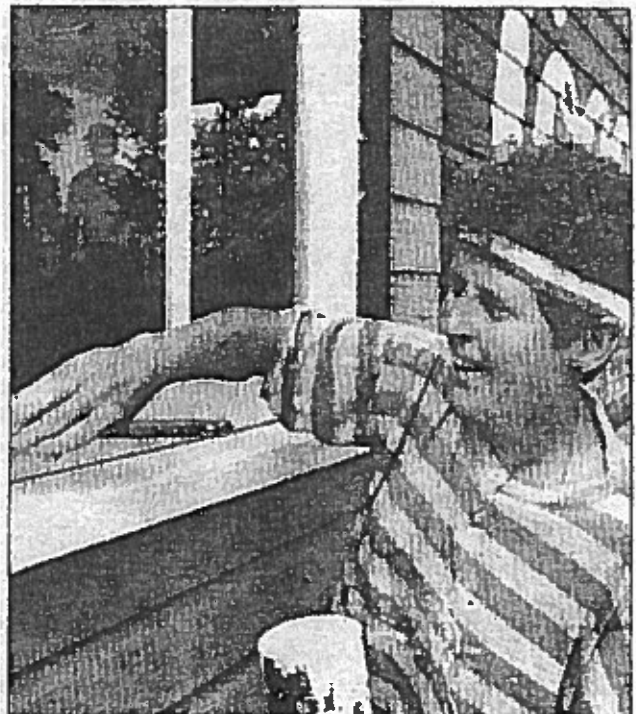
We only want businesses and professionals in our community to help us out, so you can see how supportive everyone is.

We encourage all our friends to patronize your business because you really are "Friends of the Commission and Society".

Thank you again for your support in helping us raise funds to preserve our Louisville History

City of Louisville	Grateman Jew's	R. B. Leary
A&W Restaurant	The Old Tree	Ramada Hotel
Farm National Bank	Gardner & Lewis	Louisville Rental Center
Autumn Chevrolet	Hair Unlimited	Safeway
Avon (Hope McFadden)	Hi-Tech Appliances	Sheriff T's
Bank of Louisville	Hansen	Sherrill's Carpentry
Bach's Books	Is-Hair-It-Not	Slyman, Inc.
Bach's	J & S Jewellers	Star Enterprise
Berkeley's A Fine Change	Bill Jones	Strickland Hardware
Blue Parrot	Joe's Market	John Strickland
Betty and Bill Buffo	Loren's Kitchen	Sam's Donuts
Burgundy Liquor	Kids at Heart	Sam Heritage
Continental Auto Repair	Kover-Up	Tanning's
Continental Camera	Little Caesar's Pizza	Todd's Family Video
Clearwater Fishing	The Locker Room	Translanguary Photography
Colcord's	Louisville 1st	Tri-City Elks
Curtin's	Louisville Cyclery	Trunk West Bookstore
Country Squares	Louisville Electric	Union Jack Liquors
Crazy Horse 2	Louisville Florist	Steve Williams
Crown Photography	Louisville Mining Co.	Loon West
July and Tony DeFoville	Louisville Hair Care	Cash Donations
Danigan Touch	Louisville Times	Mary's Boutique
Double Happy Restaurant	Kathy Lischka	Wayne Ziegler, D.D.S.
Scott Edwards	and Ann Mack	Tri-City Insurance
Erson	Marbletop Bakery	Ramstein, Jon
European Interiors	Moulton	and Midgley
Eye Frames	P.C. Consulting	Public Service Co.
Flowers with Flair	(Bill Austin)	of Columbus
Mike Fuld	Peacock Cleaners	Antelmer
		Joe Knight

Louisville Historical Commission - Louisville Historical Society



Touch up

WORK CONTINUES at sprucing up the Louisville Historical Museum on North Main Street. Betty Buffo puts white paint on a window frame.

UPDATE ON the Jordinelli House Renovations

Bob Enrietto

Louisville Historical Commission Member

The electrical wiring system has been completed with the exception of hanging light fixtures, which will be completed after dry wall installation. Dry walling is now complete. The partial wall in the entrance hall has been removed and a beam installed to support the ceiling and roof structure. The city is receiving bids for re-siding of the house and will grade the lot and install sidewalks in June. Ted Marvin has been working in the house repairing windows, reinforcing some weak spots in the floors, and brought the floor, in what was the bathroom, up to level with adjacent flooring. Soon painting can begin and a new floor installed.

The balance in the Jordinelli renovation account as of March 10th was \$7,080.97. We thank everyone who generously contributed to our fundraising efforts.

We wish to thank Alex Szollosi and Peter Isherwood who generously donated their time and energy to renovate the interior of the house, as well as Ted Marvin for his work at the house.



Pictured above is the building at 721 Grant Avenue, circa 1909. For a short while, the site was run as a hospital by the Union Labor Hospital Association.

SHARE THE GIFT OF HISTORY

Share the gift of history by sharing the gift of membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Your gift will be the one remembered throughout the year. A yearly membership is \$15.00 for an individual, \$25.00 for a family, and \$100.00 for a business. Membership means receiving our newsletters and an invitation to our Annual Historical Society Meeting. Membership also means helping to ensure the preservation of Louisville's unique history and cultural character.

Need a membership form? Visit our web site at museum@ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm or call the museum at 303-665-9048. You may also write to us at Louisville Historical Museum, 749 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado, 80027. Please remember to communicate your name, address, and telephone number as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the person(s) to whom you wish to give the gift of membership. We accept cash or checks. Please make checks payable to Louisville Historical Society. Thank you.

Louisville Historical Commission Members

Sally Burlingame
Elle Cabbage
Viginia Caranci
Robert Enrietto
David Ferguson
Donna Hauswald
Alice Koerner
Diane Marino
Daniel Mellish
Stuart Pritchard
Donald Ross
Patricia Seader
Aline Steinbaugh
William Unrau



DONATIONS

The Louisville Historical Museum has accessioned the following donations during the months of February through April. We sincerely appreciate these recent donations.

Don Ross - 1951 program of Colorado High School Basketball Championships, 1945 photograph of the Louisville High School football team, photograph of the Paramount Mine, and DVD-R titled "Our Men & Women in the Armed Forces, 1943-1944"

Virginia Caranci - Photograph of Frank Jordinelli's house located at 1100 LaFarge, circa 1920

Dorothy Ferguson - Early 1900s metal hair curler

MUSEUM WISH LIST

The Louisville Historical Museum would like to add to its collection the yearbooks and photographs described below. If you would be willing to donate any of the described items, please contact the Louisville Historical Museum and let us know. A reproduction of an original photograph would be acceptable. All donations to the museum, a non-profit institution, are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

- Louisville High School Yearbooks (Cargos) 1954, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, & 1972
- Photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes - 1939, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1964 through 1971
- Centaurus High School Yearbooks, 1973-2000

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Elaine Elrod

THE MUSEUM CORNER

Carol Gleeson

Museum Coordinator

Happy Spring! Museum staff and volunteers are busy with "spring cleaning" chores to brighten up each room in the museum and to refresh exhibits in both buildings. Spring hats, pastel dresses, and colorful textiles are showing off their colors. Please join us in celebrating spring with a visit to the museum and a walk along Main Street.

Louisville Historical Museum is proud to announce its eligibility for the 2004 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) grant. CAP is a one-time grant that provides eligible institutions with funding to undertake a general conservation survey. Awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the grant supports the on-site participation of a conservator and a preservation architect to assess the conservation needs of the collections and historic structures. The survey reports resulting from the assessments will aid the Museum by providing recommendations for immediate and long-term conservation action for the care and preservation of both the collections and buildings. City of Louisville staff, Historical Commission members, volunteers, and I are eagerly awaiting the site visit dates of July 8th and 9th.

Louisville Historical Commission is hosting the Louisville Historical Society Annual Membership Meeting on May 20th in the Louisville Library Meeting Room. Guest presenters will be Richard Koopman and Sara Melena of Boulder County Parks and Open Space. The presentation will be on the history and future of the Harney-Lastoka Open Space Property. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Society members will be receiving invitations in the mail.

Historical Commission members are pleased to announce the completion of a two-year project to convert the VHS tape titled, "Our Boys and Girls in the Armed Forces, 1943-1944," to a DVD. Inspired by the efforts of Don Ross, Commission members worked to identify over two hundred "boys and girls" who are featured in the original VHS tape. The DVD includes the identification of the men and women as well as the sounds of patriotic music. The Commission members' heartfelt efforts to preserve this important part of Louisville's history will ensure the future viewing of the original tape for many years to come.

In closing, Historical Commission members and I would like to extend our appreciation to the Ghost Town Club of Colorado Inc. for its generous financial contribution to the Jordinelli House Renovation Fund. The successful renovation of the Jordinelli House is largely dependent on financial contributions and volunteers' efforts. Thank you!

***LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM
1001 MAIN STREET
LOUISVILLE CO 80027
303.665.9048***

HOURS:

***TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & THE
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM***

Group tours available upon request.

***museum@ci.louisville.co.us
www.ci.louisville.co.us/museum.htm***

Louisville from Murphy Hill



Did you ever wonder what Louisville used to look like?. This picture, part of the Museum's collection, was taken from just south of present day Louisville. You can see the smoke stacks from the Acme Mine in the background as well as a train crossing the picture on a railroad spur that no longer exists.

THANKS TO NEW AND RENEWING SOCIETY MEMBERS!

New Members

Tri-City Elks Ladies
David Wertz, DDS
Alex Szollosi
Daniel & Heather Mellish
Gloria Green
Peter Isherwood

Renewing Members

Isabelle Hudson
Ruth Babcock
Lucky Family
Mary Claire Collins
Joe Buffo

These names consist of recent memberships and renewals in the Louisville Historical Society during the months of February through April. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please contact the museum with corrections to the above list of names.

Regrets

With regret, we note the recent deaths of two Society members. Wendell Hunt died on March 18, 2004. John Buffo died on October 17, 2003. We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Wendell and John.

Louisville Historical Museum



1001 Main Street
Louisville, Colorado
303.665.9048
museum@ci.louisville.co.us

Hours:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
&
the first Saturday of every month
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Louisville Historical Society
749 Main Street
Louisville CO 80027



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